

# **ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

## **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR 1942.**

**KENNETH FRASER, M.O.H.**



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Presented to the District Council

3rd October, 1944

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# URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL

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## Summary of the Annual Report

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

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### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

*Medical Officer of Health* : KENNETH FRASER (part-time). Salary £100  
*Sanitary Inspector* : J. F. SMITHIE (part-time). Salary £230.  
 (Commenced duties in the month of March).

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### STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,617
Population—Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,949
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1942								8,444
Number of Inhabited Houses :—								
(a) Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,682
(b) End of 1942, according to Rate Books	..	..						2,593
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£32,967
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..				£127

## VITAL STATISTICS.

					<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births	{	Legitimate ..	..	139	..	67	.. 72
		Illegitimate..	..	7	..	4	.. 3
Total		..	..	..	146	.. 71	.. 75

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1942 .. 17·2

					<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Still-births	..	..	..	..	2	.. 1	.. 1
Deaths	..	..	..	..	102	.. 47	.. 55
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..				..	..	13
Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	..				..	..	12·0

There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	82
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..			86
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil.
Deaths from Cancer	..	..	..	12
Deaths from Whooping Cough	..	..	..	1

There were no deaths from Measles or Diarrhœa under 2 years of age.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

							<i>Total.</i>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
							—
							80
							—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

*New Cases and Mortality during 1942.*

<i>Age Periods.</i>				<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
				<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
<i>Years.</i>				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0-1	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	..	..	..	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
10-15	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	..	..	..	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
20-25	..	..	..	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25-35	..	..	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35-45	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	..			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..	..		6	2	2	4	2	—	—	—
				8		6		2		—	

<i>Population :—</i>	<i>Per 1,000 of estimated Population.</i>				<i>Maternal Mortality Rate.</i>		
	<i>Death-rate from</i>				<i>Per 1,000</i>	<i>Rate of</i>	
<i>Estimate 1942 :</i>			<i>Tuber-</i>	<i>Death</i>		<i>1,000</i>	<i>deaths</i>
(a) <i>for Birth-</i>	<i>Live</i>	<i>Crude</i>	<i>culosis</i>	<i>rate</i>	<i>Per</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>under one</i>
<i>rates 8,444.</i>	<i>Birth-</i>	<i>Death-</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Live &amp;</i>	<i>year per</i>
(b) <i>for Death-</i>	<i>rate.</i>	<i>rate.</i>	<i>Respirat'y</i>	<i>System.</i>	<i>Live</i>	<i>Still-</i>	<i>1,000 Live</i>
<i>rates 8,444.</i>			<i>System.</i>	<i>Cancer.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>births.</i>	<i>births.</i>
Mean of five							
years 1937-41	16·7	11·8	0·25	1·23	Nil	Nil	68
Year 1941 ..	17·0	10·0	0·35	1·28	Nil	Nil	81
Year 1942 ..	17·2	12·0	0·23	1·42	Nil	Nil	82
Increase or decrease in 1942							
on 5 years' aver. 1937-41	+0·5	+0·2	—0·02	+0·19	Nil	Nil	+14
Previous year	+0·2	+2·0	—0·12	+0·14	Nil	Nil	+ 1

## COUNCIL OFFICES,

ORRELL ROAD.

September, 1944.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Orrell Urban District  
Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Orrell for the year ending December 31st, 1942. Population (Census 1931) 6,949 ; estimated population 1942, 8,444.

**BIRTHS.**—There were 146 live births (same number as 1941), 71 males and 75 females, rate 17·2 per 1,000. Seven of these were illegitimate ; 1941, 6. The mean average birth-rate for the past ten years was 15·71. There were 2 still births, 1941, 5. The births exceeded the deaths by 44, 1941, 60. The mean average number of births over deaths for the past ten years was 33.

**DEATHS.**—The number of deaths registered from all causes belonging to the district was 102, 47 males and 55 females, 1941, 86, rate 12·0 per 1,000. Inquiries were made on 11 deaths and inquests held on six of these with a verdict of suicide in four cases. Twenty-eight of the deaths occurred in institutions. The deaths were distributed 53 in the East Ward and 49 in the West Ward. The mean average death-rate for the past ten years was 11·81.

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.**—The number of infant deaths was the same as 1941, 12, 5 males and 7 females, occurring 8 in the East Ward, and 4 in the West Ward : rate per 1,000 live births 82, 1941, 81. The average for the past ten years was 64, and the percentage to the total deaths 11·7, 1941, 13·9. Seven of the children lived 1 week and under, and 4 of these 12 hours and under. Two were 1st born ; 4, 2nd born ; 3, 3rd born ; and 1 each 5th, 6th and 8th born. The causes of death were : 3 Premature Birth, 4 Congenital Defects, 2 Bronchitis, 1 Broncho Pneumonia, 1 Intussusception, and 1 Whooping Cough. In eight cases the parents were sole occupants of the home, and in one the parents were lodgers. Five of the deaths occurred in institutions.



## INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.
England and Wales .. .. .	49	59	55	50
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	59	71	61	53
148 Smaller Towns (resident popula- tion 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census .. .. .)	46	56	54	40
London Administration County ..	60	68	50	48

## DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	<i>Mean.</i>
Under 1 year ..	12	12	10	12	7	9	10·3
1 and under 2 years ..	1	2	1	1	—	2	1·1
2 to 5 years ..	0	1	3	1	1	1	1·1
5 to 15 years ..	0	2	2	3	—	2	1·5
15 to 25 years ..	3	5	2	1	—	5	2·6
25 to 45 years ..	8	5	11	13	11	8	9·3
45 to 65 years ..	22	19	31	14	25	33	24·0
65 and upwards ..	56	40	57	63	38	55	51·5
	102	86	117	108	82	115	101·4

Under 15 years of age there were 13 deaths, 1941, 17: over 60 years of age, 64, 1941, 41; between 70 and 80 years of age 24, 1941, 18; between 80 and 90 years of age 15, 1941, 11. Two people reached the age of 87 years.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY FROM PREMATURE BIRTHS AND CONGENITAL DEFECTS.

	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	<i>England and Wales. 1925.</i>
Premature Births ..	25%	41·6%	20%	41·6%	14·2%	18·63%
Congenital Defects ..	33·3%	25%	30%	16·6%	33·3%	5·20%

## VARIOUS AGES AT WHICH INFANT DEATHS OCCURRED.

	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.
Under 1 week ..	5	7	2	7	3
1 to 2 weeks ..	2	—	—	—	—
2 to 3 „ ..	—	—	2	1	—
Under 1 month ..	7	7	4	8	3
1 to 3 months ..	—	2	3	2	2
3 to 6 „ ..	3	2	2	1	—
6 to 9 „ ..	2	1	1	1	1
9 to 12 „ ..	—	—	—	—	1
	12	12	10	12	7

## AGES AT DEATH OF INFANTS ACCORDING TO THE POSITION OF THE CHILD IN THE FAMILY.

<i>Position of Child in the Family.</i>	<i>Weeks.</i>		<i>Months.</i>		
	1	4	5	6	
First born .. ..	1	—	—	1	
Second born .. ..	3	1	—	—	
Third born .. ..	3	—	—	—	
Fifth born .. ..	—	—	1	—	
Sixth born .. ..	—	—	—	1	
Eighth born .. ..	—	1	—	—	
	7	2	1	2	

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—There were 2 deaths registered from this group of diseases, 1 Diphtheria and 1 Whooping Cough.

## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

<i>Disease.</i>	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.
Scarlet Fever ..	15	6	29	33	27
Whooping Cough ..	19	33	12	8	—
Diphtheria ..	9	4	20	29	13
Erysipelas ..	2	2	1	3	4
Measles ..	28	33	199	—	—
Pneumonia ..	6	10	23	7	15
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—	—	—
Totals for each year ..	80	90	285	80	59

They were distributed in the Wards as follows:—

<i>Disease.</i>					<i>East Ward. West Ward.</i>		
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	6	..	9
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	14	..	5
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	2	..	7
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	—	..	2
Measles	..	..	..	..	12	..	16
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	5	..	1
Puerperal Pyrexia		..	..	..	1	..	—

#### PUBLIC HEALTH AND TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1912.

*Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—There were 8 new cases reported, 6 males and 2 females, 1941, 9. They occurred 6 in the East Ward and 2 in the West Ward. In one of these cases the diagnosis was not confirmed. Three of these cases were returns from the Services. Institutional treatment was provided for 8 cases. Their ages ranged from 11 to 55 years. Two deaths were registered, rate 0·23 per 1,000, 1941, 0·35. The number of cases on the register at the end of the year was 24, 14 males and 10 females, giving a case incidence of 2·84 per 1,000, 1941, 2·2.

*Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis:* Six new cases were reported, 1941, 13, 2 males and 4 females, occurring 5 in the East Ward, and 1 in the West Ward. Their ages ranged from 5 to 34 years. The number of cases on the register at the end of the year was 34, 19 males and 15 females, case incidence 4·02 per 1,000, 1941, 4·2. The case incidence for all cases of Tuberculosis was 6·86 per 1,000, 1941, 6·44.

*Respiratory Diseases* apart from Pulmonary Tuberculosis accounted for 14 deaths, 1941, 6. Bronchitis 9, Pneumonia 4, other Respiratory Diseases 1, rate 1·65 per 1,000, 1941, 0·702; percentage to total deaths 13·7, 1941, 6·9. The notifications from Pneumonia numbered 6, 5 males and 1 female, occurring 5 in the East Ward, and 1 in the West Ward. Their ages ranged from 6 months to 69 years. Incidence of Pneumonia was 0·71 per 1,000, England and Wales 1·07.

Age Groups of Infectious Notifiable Diseases were as follows :—

<i>Age Groups.</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>	<i>Diph- theria.</i>	<i>Pneu- monia.</i>	<i>Ery- sipelas.</i>	<i>Whooping Cough.</i>	<i>Measles.</i>	<i>Puerperal Pyrexia.</i>							
Under 12 mths.	—	..	—	..	1	..	—	..	3	..	2	..	—	
1-2 years	..	—	..	1	..	—	..	—	..	2	..	3	..	—
2-3 „	..	1	..	—	..	1	..	—	..	3	..	2	..	—
3-4 „	..	1	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	4	..	5	..	—
4-5 „	..	1	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	4	..	4	..	—
5-10 „	..	10	..	1	..	1	..	—	..	3	..	12	..	—
10-15 „	..	2	..	1	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
15-20 „	..	—	..	5	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
20-25 „	..	—	..	1	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
25-35 „	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	1
45-65 „	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	2	..	—	..	—	..	—
65 and upwards	—	..	—	..	2	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	—
<hr/>														
	15	..	9	..	6	..	2	..	19	..	28	..	1	
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*Scarlet Fever* : Fifteen cases were notified, occurring 6 in the East Ward, and 9 in the West Ward. Twelve of the cases were among children of school-going age. Case incidence 1·77 per 1,000, 1941, 0·702 ; England and Wales, 2·19.

*Erysipelas* : Two cases occurred in the West Ward ; case incidence 0·23 per 1,000, 1941, 0·23 ; England and Wales, 0·32.

*Whooping Cough* : During the last quarter of the year Whooping Cough was prevalent, when 9 cases were notified. In all 19 notifications were received. They occurred, 14 in the East Ward, and 5 in the West Ward. Their ages were 5 years and under. In one household 3 inmates were affected, while in 3 other households, 2 members in each contracted the trouble, case incidence 2·25 per 1,000 ; England and Wales, 1·73. There was 1 death registered, rate 0·118 per 1,000.

*Measles* : Twenty-eight cases of Measles were notified. They occurred, 12 in the East Ward, and 16 in the West Ward. More than half were of children of school-going age. In 2 households 2 members in each were affected. The disease was most prevalent in the first quarter of the year, when 18 notifications were received (9 in January), case incidence 3·31 per 1,000 ; England and Wales, 7·46.



*Puerperal Pyrexia* : One case was notified, occurring in the East Ward, case incidence 0·118 per 1,000 ; England and Wales (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) 12·61.

*Diphtheria*: Nine notifications were received, 1941, 4. They occurred, 2 in the East Ward, and 7 in the West Ward, 2 males and 7 females. Six of the cases were of people 16 years and upwards, and 1 of school-going age; case incidence 1·06 per 1,000; England and Wales, 1·05. There was one death, rate 0·11 per 1,000; England and Wales, 0·05. Reports on 13 throat swabs were received. Immunisation against Diphtheria was started in the Schools in the month of July. By the end of the year 23 per cent. of children under 5 years, and 41 per cent. of children 5 to 15 years had completed the course.

The following table shows the number of notifications received, age groups, distribution in the Wards, and deaths, from 1930 to 1942 :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Notifica-</i>		<i>Under</i>		<i>Over</i>		<i>Wards :</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
	<i>tions.</i>		<i>5 years.</i>		<i>5-15.</i>		<i>15 years.</i>		<i>East.</i>		<i>West.</i>			
1930	..	12	..	—	..	9	..	3	..	7	..	5	..	—
1931	..	3	..	1	..	2	..	—	..	3	..	—	..	—
1932	..	5	..	—	..	5	..	—	..	5	..	—	..	1
1933	..	1	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	1	..	—	..	—
1934	..	5	..	1	..	4	..	—	..	3	..	2	..	1
1935	..	3	..	—	..	1	..	2	..	3	..	—	..	—
1936	..	18	..	3	..	12	..	3	..	2	..	16	..	—
1937	..	37	..	6	..	23	..	8	..	27	..	10	..	1
1938	..	13	..	2	..	7	..	4	..	9	..	4	..	—
1939	..	29	..	5	..	20	..	4	..	26	..	3	..	2
1940	..	21	..	1	..	14	..	6	..	18	..	3	..	—
1941	..	4	..	—	..	3	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	1
1942	..	9	..	1	..	2	..	6	..	2	..	7	..	1
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		160	..	20	..	102	..	38	..	108	..	52	..	7

12.5	per cent of the cases were	under 5 years of age.
63.7	„	5 to 15 years of age.
23.7	„	over 15 years of age.

Number of cases notified: 1900-09, 64; 1920-29, 53.  
1910-19, 25; 1930-39, 126.

The steep rise in the number of notifications in 1936 was probably due to the increased number of families becoming resident in Orrell from outside areas, occupying new property erected chiefly in the East Ward. New houses erected : 1936, 205 ; 1937, 289 ; 1938, 89.

From 1900 to 1942 a mean of 7 notifications per annum were received.

In this period	21 per cent.	of the cases	were	under 5 years	of age.
„	55	„	„	5 to 15 years	of age.
„	23	„	„	over 15 years	of age.

From 1908 to 1921 in only one year did the notifications received reach 6.

CANCER AND MALIGNANT DISEASES.—The deaths were equally distributed in both the sexes, and in the Wards ; 12 deaths, rate 1·42 per 1,000, 1941, 1·28 ; percentage to total deaths 11·76, 1941, 12·79. The mean rates for the past ten years were 1·32 and 11·25 respectively. Six of the deaths were of people over 65 years of age, one living to 83 years. Parts affected : Stomach 2, other sites 10.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The district was well served by Hospitals situated outside the area. Acute urgent cases and accidents received prompt attention. The ambulance service was satisfactory. 42 per cent. of the Maternity cases occurred in Institutions.

WATER SUPPLY.—The source of supply is from a reservoir situated at Bispham under contract with the County Borough of Wigan. It was continuous, and of good quality. New mains were laid in preparation for a new supply, which we hope will satisfy the demands of the district.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No action was taken during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The district is sewered to one outlet, by gravitation, and treated outside the area.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—With the exception of certain houses considered for demolition, the water carriage system pertains. There were 43 privy middens serving those houses with 69 closets. There were 2,609 fresh water closets in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Reorganisation of the Refuse Collection System was carried out, entailing a regular bi-weekly collection of refuse and salvage, resulting in an increased quantity of salvage. This work was done by day, and by motor. The collection of kitchen waste was commenced in one half of the district.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING).—The number of premises visited was 350, resulting in the discovery of 140 defects or nuisances of which 137 were abated. There were 131 informal notices served. No statutory notices were required.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary conditions were satisfactory. A few cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in one School in August. There was no epidemic and there was no closure for infectious disease.

SHOPS ACTS, 1934.—The regulations were carried out satisfactorily ; no action taken.

CAMPING SITES.—There were no camping sites in the area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—Three houses in a row were treated. The rooms were fumigated with sulphur candles, and cescones after spraying with vermicine.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There were no offensive trades in the district and no premises which came under the Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.—There were no big factories in the district. On the register there were 32 workshops, 5 of which were fitted with mechanical power. They were inspected periodically, and the regulations were carried out satisfactorily.

HOUSING STATISTICS.—There were no new houses erected, and the number of inhabited houses remained the same as in 1941. The density of the population per acre was 5·2 persons, and the distribution of the population per house remained the same, 3·2 persons per house. Technical overcrowding occurred in isolated cases due to the inability of newly-married couples to acquire houses, and by reason of the growth in the family. The chief defects found were defective roofs, rain water pipes, W.C. fittings, and blocked drains.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS REGULATIONS.—The number of cows in the district was 170, housed in 30 shippens, the majority of which were stone-built, situated as outbuildings in the farm yards. There were 17 dairy farms and 29 diarmen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) all registered. These shippens were visited periodically throughout the year, 118 inspections. General routine tidiness was observed, in and around the buildings, but lime-washing was delayed in some instances. A slight improvement in the toilet of the cattle was observed, although many of the cowkeepers were short handed. Minor structural improvements were carried out in one shippen. Samples of milk were submitted for examination. It was reported



that Tubercle Bacilli were found in one sample. As a result of inquiry by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, subsequent samples proved negative.

MEAT INSPECTION ACTS.—The following quantities of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption; 42 lbs. corned beef, 12 lbs. corned pork, 12 lbs. chopped ham, and 4 lbs. bacon.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1942.

Blocked or Defective W.C's. . . . .	15
Insufficient and Defective Provision for House Refuse	2
Blocked and Defective Drains . . . . .	16
Defective Spouts . . . . .	12
Houses Disinfected . . . . .	34
Eradication of Bed Bugs . . . . .	3 houses.
Rats in Houses (number of houses) . . . . .	1
Sanitary Inspections (including Housing) . . . . .	350
Number of Defects or Nuisances discovered . . . . .	140
Number of Defects or Nuisances abated . . . . .	137
Requiring 131 informal and no statutory notices.	

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

	1941.	1942.
No. of ashpits empties during the year . . . . .	219	273
„ dustbins emptied during the year . . . . .	102,956	73,863
„ loads removed during the year . . . . .	1,240	1,238
„ privy closets in the district . . . . .	69	69
„ privy ashpits in the district . . . . .	43	43
„ dry ashpits in the district . . . . .	6	6
„ dustbins in the district . . . . .	2,556	2,557
„ fresh water-closets . . . . .	2,609	2,609

The Chief Sanitary Requirement of the District is a new source of Water Supply.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.









